

## A TRUSTED LEADER.

The National Farmers' Alliance and Industrial Union is fortunate in having a leader who will lead the members of the organization out of bondage. President L. L. Polk has been wise and conservative when conservatism was necessary in order to guide the organization of which he is the head in safety through the trying period since the Ocala convention, and up to the assembling of the great industrial conference at St. Louis. He is now demonstrating that he possesses the elements of a radical as well as a conservative, and that he has likewise the discrimination that enables him to rightly judge of the proper time for the exercise of the one or the other of these characteristics of his nature. He has held the great organization with a steady hand. It was everywhere led to look to the decisions of the St. Louis conference which had been agreed upon at Ocala, to indicate its future policy, and in the interval it was perfectly non-committal. So completely was the entire organization imbued with this dominant idea, that when the result of the great conference was known the entire membership, north and south, was prepared to accept the decision, with the exception of a very few partisan bigots who have a higher regard for party than for home or country. A few of these are found in nearly every state, and in many instances they are men who have attained prominence in the order, and who have made loudest professions of fealty to its principles. When weighed in the balance, however, they are found wanting.

In North Carolina some of these men have been given important positions, and when President Polk, through his paper, the *Progressive Farmer*, exhibits his loyalty to the order by his acceptance and advocacy of the principles and decisions of the St. Louis conference, to which the entire order was in honor committed, these political shysters criticize his course, and object to the use of his paper, which was the official organ of the State Alliance, for the support of the policy that has been agreed upon. Under these circumstances President Polk exhibits his integrity and manhood in the following characteristic letter:

MAY 31, 1892.

Hon. S. B. Alexander, President Executive Board North Carolina State Alliance:

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER:—Having learned that the executive board at its recent session in Raleigh, N. C., expressed its dissatisfaction with the attitude of the *Progressive Farmer* in its last preceding issue toward the People's party, I hereby tender the resignation of that paper as the official organ of the State Alliance of North Carolina.

While it will remain as true and loyal to the Alliance organization and its principles as it has ever been, it can not and will not be circumscribed in its advocacy of the methods which only can bring relief to our suffering people, and which have been so overwhelmingly endorsed by them.

In thus severing its official connection with the State Alliance it in no measure abates its allegiance to the principles of our order, and will ever stand ready and willing to extend its full and hearty co-operation to all the officers and the brotherhood for promoting and maintaining the principles which we have espoused.

Fraternally yours,

L. L. POLK,

Editor *Progressive Farmer*.

It is safe to say that Mr. Alexander and his compatriots will be repudi-

ated by the masses of the people of North Carolina with as much unanimity as Livingston and Moses have been by the Alliance of Georgia.

## FUSION.

To the Editor of THE ADVOCATE.

While the possibilities and results of "fusion" do not appear to be exciting much discussion in the Republican organs within my reading, being for the most part dismissed with casual notice, they are a leading topic with the Democratic papers, and any apparent steps in that direction are hailed with a jubilation which is in itself enough to arouse the fears and suspicions of any true lover of reform.

Once and for all the Democratic party is not a party of reform, or of progress, or of a positive faith. Its only policy in all its last thirty years of history, has been one of opposition; it is conservative without regard to right or wrong, its faith is in negation, and its north pole, to which it seeks to adjust every political compass, is anything to beat the Republican party.

Within a little over thirty years this incarnate negation has championed, because of its opposition to reform, states rights against national unification, slavery against the cause of freedom, the rum power against law and morality, and, if it has both talked and voted for any good thing, I do not know what it is. It talked a few years ago for greenbacks, after having done its utmost to prevent their issuance, but the actual result of its utterance was as vacuous as the finality of all its free silver platforms. In 1880 and again in 1884 it demanded the constitutional silver dollar, and Mr. Cleveland may thank that platform for his election, and for the opportunity to display as chief magistrate of a long suffering people, his treason to his party's plighted faith and his disregard for the welfare of 90 per cent. of his fellow citizens.

I will leave to others the task of abusing the other great party. One thing at least it has, a positive, acting, aggressive policy. If there were any danger of fusion with the Republican machine, there would be need of comment upon that danger, but in Kansas, at least, there is none.

One highest of all reforms deserves the hand and voice and ballot of every honest man, and that is a reform in political morality, a substitution of principle for expediency, and of truthful platforms for deers' oaths made but to deceive and to be broken. From what Republican, from what Democrat, from what man will you hear any expression of faith in the utterances either at Minneapolis or Chicago? They will be meaningless "*vox et preterea nihil*" and everyone will acknowledge it. They will not influence a vote, and will serve but as the convenient headings for campaign speeches. The disgrace crowning the apex of this mountainous dishonor, is that the people, the whole people, think of this falsity as merely subject for a bitter jest. Like people, like priest. A lie has grown to be a matter of small consequence to the nation. What wonder if it is the all-sufficient weapon and shield of the politician and the stock gambler, as it is of the prostitute.

The talk for fusion is from first to last, and its plotters will not deny it, talk for expediency. It may be true that "half a loaf is better than no bread," but half a truth is not better than no truth. Half a truth is a lie, and half of a principle is a dishonesty. With anything evil one can always compromise, but with right there can be no compromise. A fusion between good and evil! It is a

contradiction in terms. The thing is impossible. The same natural law holds good with a party and with the waters of the Mississippi. A stream cannot rise higher than its source nor flow up hill, and it is as nonsensical to propose reform in a party as to urge the "Father of Waters" to carry his miry clay back to the mountains and there erect with it a monument to the breach of nature's law.

The People's party is urged to fuse in order to gain some Democratic votes. We do not want Democratic votes nor Republican votes. We want People's party votes, or better yet, the votes of Americans, of citizens of the United States. A Democratic voter in the People's party! A parasite, a germ of disease in a healthy body. You might as well propose to me to infest myself with a few lice in order to weigh more.

God and one man are a majority and will in the long run, elect presidents. Humanity cannot permanently believe a lie. One man may, for his three score and ten years, but then at once the falsity becomes as a riven veil before the truth. A nation may try to believe what is eternally untrue, but there comes a 1797, and the falsity becomes a shadow and then a spectre and then the haunting *ignis fatuus* over a putrescent tomb. The eternal promise of life is in death, and because a lie cannot be finally believed, and because a falsity cannot impregnate itself and bear a reality, nor do aught but die, the truth must be approaching with every day, and its wings flash nearer with the evangel of every sunrise. Our briefly numbered days teach to us haste, and we are impatient because night follows so soon upon dawn, but the fated year has never been hurried in the even round of time. Least of all things can the truth be invited by untruth.

I know that expediency is political orthodoxy, or rather partisan orthodoxy. I am sorry to know that even the St. Louis convention refrained from touching Satan's ark of the covenant, the saloon, lest it might be stricken dead by the prince of the power of this sin. I think I know too that no long lived thing was ever conceived in expediency, nor born in fusion, for these are political crimes and nature knows but one punishment and that is capital. For each most minute violation of law, nature advances a point, a step, a year, her solution of all problems, and she never pardons.

The People's party may be defeated this year, next year, again and again, but nothing that is founded upon truth is ever finally defeated, nor is the mouth ever unpunished, be it individual or partisan, which speaks a falsehood. The voice of the people is not the voice of a god, more nearly than the voice of an individual, unless it is more wise, more honest, more steadfastly true. A party should be, more than a man, absolutely bound and devoted to a principle and incapable of compromise. That is the cardinal principle of a democracy, and, if the whole people is not wiser, more honest and more steadfast than an individual, then a republic is an absurd thing, and we should seek only for the right king upon whom to impose a crown.

I have steadfastly refused to believe that the People's party in Kansas would fuse, or allow itself to be fused with any other party, and for myself, now, I can only say that I must regard with distrust any man who proposes such a move. Such a man, it seems to me, might, if he were in the house or the senate, again exchange a rightful for an evil vote, might find an expediency

which would lift him from the ranks which need reform as they need the bread of life, at the temporary expense of his constituency. When men cease to consider the immediate personal effects of defeat, and look toward the divinely certain final victory of right, then they may be trusted to guide the councils of nations, and to make laws, not for the expedient present moment, but for our children and the children of coming centuries.

H. A. HIGGINS.

## THE SILVER CONSPIRACY.

[The following comes to us from a Colorado correspondent.—EDITOR.]

Our senator, Hon. H. M. Teller, a man for years in the front ranks of the Republican party, and with the foremost in the nation's councils, told it all when, in his noble battle for silver in the United States senate, he said:

When the free coinage bill was introduced in this body in December, I know whereof I speak when I say that the banks of New York City organized themselves for the purpose of defeating this legislation, and I venture to say now there is not a bank in the United States known as a national bank, which has not been appealed to by that organization to contribute funds and influence to the defeat of silver legislation.

Further on he said:

I do not intend that anybody shall infer from the remarks I have made in my criticism of the Republican party, in my statement of the dangers which have threatened us, which now threaten us at Minneapolis, that I expect that the Democratic party will be any more liberal towards us as a party. It is true that we have had from that side of the chamber many generous supporters. It is true that for the many years that we have been here endeavoring to secure a proper recognition for silver, we have looked to men sitting on the other side of the chamber, with a certainty that they were our friends in this contest. But, like our party, the Democratic party is in the toils of a power it dare not offend, and the danger is that these two great political parties, in their anxiety to secure the state of New York, controlled as it is by a little circle in and about Manhattan Island, will neglect and repudiate the interest of the great masses of the country, and act exactly alike on this silver question.

Coming from such high authority, what more need be said? Does anyone doubt that our whole financial policy is held in the hands of a few, who thereby control the destinies of the people of the whole nation, grinding them to poverty like dumb driven cattle, and that every vote for either of the old parties is a vote to perpetuate that poverty? And if it is so on the money question, why not on the railroad question, the land question, the tariff and everything else wherein the interests of the few conflict with those of the many? Surely the people north, south, east and west owe our Colorado senators a debt of gratitude for having arisen above party prejudice and dictation, and told the plain truth. Their speeches should be in the hands of every voter. They know whereof they speak, and, if I mistake not, Colorado, heretofore so strongly Republican, will go with them and be a People's party state this fall. Tell our Kansas friends to be brave and true, stand by their colors and they will be rewarded by seeing many states—some not counted on now—wheel into line this fall. The cause they so bravely started is spreading; politicians of both old parties are already dumb-founded that their following is so light and there is so little enthusiasm among the people, while the voter is chuckling to himself, thinking how much greater will be the surprise and consternation of those same politicians when the votes are counted next fall and he finds politicians were not in it at all; that politics were subordinated to the peoples' interests and honest men.